

# WEBINAR

# WEDNESDAYS



Governor's Office  
of Youth, Faith  
and Family



**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

## **Connecting the Dots in Criminal Justice: Preventing Crimes Against People by Focusing on Animal Abuse**

Presented by:

**Phil Arkow**

National Link Coalition Coordinator

Distributed by:

ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

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## Connecting the Dots in Criminal Justice: Preventing Crimes Against People by Focusing on Animal Abuse



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Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys'  
Advisory Council  
March 3, 2021

## Outline for Today

- \* Part 1: Introduction to the Animal Abuse/Interpersonal Violence Link
- \* Part 2: Legal and Psychological Considerations of Animal Abuse
- \* Part 3: Specific Types of Links
- \* Part 4: Professional and Community Responses to The Link

## Some Basic Ground Rules

- Ask me questions – please!
- The “Italian Kitchen Philosophy of Learning.”
- Don’t mind the light-hearted approach – it’s a way to make emotionally charged topics more palatable.
- Don’t be overwhelmed by the statistics – just showing that research backs this up.
- Animals are not more important than people.

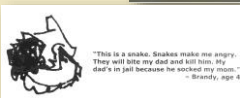


## PART 1 Introduction to the Animal Abuse/ Interpersonal Violence Link

## How I Got Here



The fateful  
after-dinner  
speech....

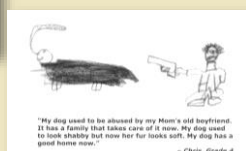


"This is my cat.  
My dad treats my cat  
unfairly like he  
treats my mom."  
- Jennifer, age 8



The provocative  
research study....

The curious  
teacher  
training....



## What is the National Link Coalition?

- \* National Resource Center.
- \* Organized 2008, Portland, Maine.
- \* 4,500+ members, 50 states, 55 countries.
- \* Informal collaboration addressing linkages, prevention and response to animal abuse, domestic violence, child maltreatment and elder abuse.
- \* Policy, programs, awareness, & research (1,500+)
- \* LINK-Letter, local coalitions, trainings.
- \* By recognizing how human and animal violence intertwined, violence prevention is enhanced and communities are safer.



### Our Basic Premise:

We can make more progress protecting people and pets by recognizing the intersectionality of species-spanning violence

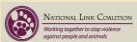
- Family violence doesn't stop at the human species line.
- We can prevent family violence collaboratively by recognizing animal abuse as a potential indicator and predictor crime.
- Holding animal abusers accountable prevents other crimes and changes community attitudes toward violence and safety.
- Measures to prevent, prosecute and punish animal cruelty benefit Man's Best Friend... but also Man (and especially Woman) !

### "A Pet is an Island of Sanity in What Appears to Be an Insane World."

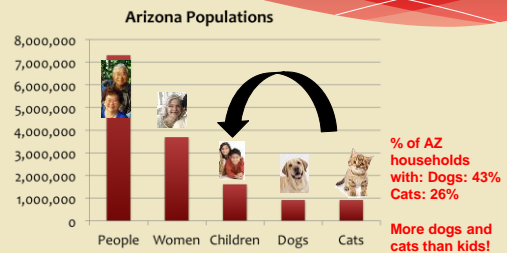


### Pets in the American Family

- More homes have pets than children
- More money on pet food than baby food
- More dogs in US than people in most countries in Europe
- More cats than dogs
- *A child in the US today is more likely to grow up with pets than with a father*



### And There Are a Lot Of Them!



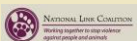
### Who Cares for All These Pets?



#### FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

67.7% of households with children < 6  
74.6% of households with children > 6

Female is the primary caregiver in 80.7% of pet-owning households



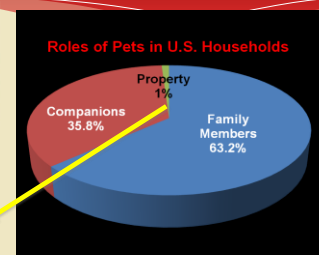
AVMA: U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook, 2007, 2012

### What Do We Know About Pets in Families?

How we view pets has changed dramatically...



... but a disconnect between law and perception!

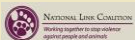


AVMA: U.S. Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook, 2012

## Pets Are Sources of Comfort In Times of Crisis



Pets Evacuation and  
Transportation Standards  
(PETS) Act -- Oct. 2006



Super Storm Sandy



Hurricane Harvey

## Fukushima Earthquake



## How Civilization Got Here...

Man's first art... (30,000 BC)



Man's first  
architecture...  
(11,500 BC)



## Evolution of Human-Animal Interactions



Fear



Worship



Domestication



Pets



Healthful  
partners



The Link



Neuro-  
chemistry



"Walk a hound,  
lose a pound"



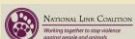
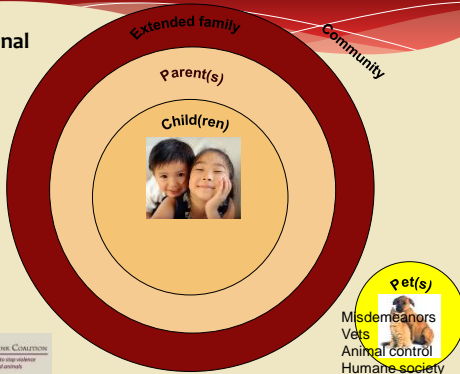
Social  
capital



Animal-Assisted  
Therapy

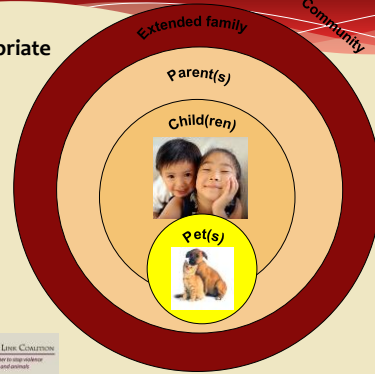
## But the Law Doesn't Match Public Perception

Traditional  
Family  
Courts  
View



Misdemeanors  
Vets  
Animal control  
Humane society

More  
Appropriate  
Family  
Courts  
View



## The “Dark Side” of the Human-Animal Bond

*“When animals are abused,  
people are at risk;*

*When people are abused,  
animals are at risk.”*



## Connecting the Dots: The Link between Animal Abuse and Other Forms of Family Violence



## Animal Abuse: It's the Tip of the Iceberg



*“Recognizing animal abuse as an indicator that  
something is wrong in a household may be  
the first step in stopping the cycle of violence.”*

— Kimberly J. Adams, ed.,

Kentucky Children's Rights Journal 8(2), Winter 2000



## Our Basic Premises

### The Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Inter-Generational Cycle of Violence



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### The Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Inter-Generational Cycle of Violence



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### The Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Inter-Generational Cycle of Violence





## Our Basic Premises

### The Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Inter-Generational Cycle of Violence



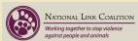
## Our Basic Premises

### The Animal Abuse/Domestic Violence Inter-Generational Cycle of Violence



## Our Basic Premises

We can no longer say  
“boys will be boys”



## Our Basic Premises:

**We Can Make More Progress to Protect Society If We Focus on Animal Abuse's Impact on People and Communities**

*Dogs and cats can't vote!*

Political reality:  
A lose/lose...  
or a win/win?



“Animal cruelty is more than just a legal issue. It's a community issue. If you improve animal welfare in a community, you improve public safety for everyone.”



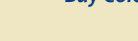
~Former Baltimore Mayor  
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake



## Not Really a Change... History of Anti-Cruelty Laws

### Origins:

- US colonies: 1641
- Property law
- Statement about individual and society
- Morals and decency codes
- **CONSISTENT PREMISE: IMPACT ON HUMAN WELL-BEING**
- **First Link prosecutions: Essex County, Mass. Bay Colonie, 1649**

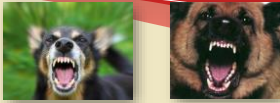


## Why Should Animal Abuse be Taken Seriously?

- \* Animal abuse is a crime.
- \* Often indicates or predicts other issues.
- \* Is NOT a normal rite of passage.
- \* Unaddressed, animal abuse can escalate in severity and incidence against humans.



## Why Should Animal Abuse be Taken Seriously?



Animal abuse/neglect in **21.1%** of 256 dog bite fatalities

Frequently co-occurred with:

- Dog not spayed/neutered
- Compromised ability of victim to interact with dog
- Dog a "resident" rather than "family" pet

*Preventable factors more significant than dog's breed.*

– Patronek et. al, JAVMA, 2013

## Why Should Animal Abuse be Taken Seriously?

IPV suspects with histories of pet abuse are significantly more likely to have had previous violent incidents. Victims reported:

- 80% had had at least one prior unreported IPV incident.
- 76% had been strangled.
- 26% had been forced to have sex with the suspect.
- **80% fear they will be killed by the suspect.**
- **First responders face 2x risk of lethality.**

– Campbell, Thompson et al, 2018

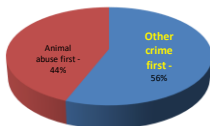
## Reality Check: Does Animal Abuse Always Lead to Interpersonal Violence?

153 cruelty offenders:

- Tracked for 10 years prior & 10 years after
- Matched with control group

Criminal offenses: Animal abusers: 70%  
Non-abusers: 22%

Animal Abuse  
& Other Crimes



Conclusions:

- May be **Escalation Hypothesis**
- May be **Pattern of General Deviance**
- Animal abuse doesn't always lead to human violence, but we're not surprised when there is a Link.

– Arnold Arluke & Carter Lutz,  
Northeastern University & Massachusetts SPCA, 1997

## Reality Check: “Will Children Who Harm Animals Always Grow Up to be Serial Killers?”

Not all  
childhood  
abusers  
grow up  
to be  
psychopaths.



Some children  
who are bombarded  
by violence  
seek comfort in  
animals or try to  
protect them

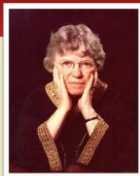


NATIONAL LINK COALITION  
Working together to stop violence  
against people and animals

## Timeline: How Has The Link Been Studied?

1960s:

Margaret  
Mead



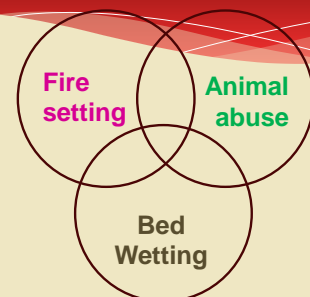
**“One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill or torture an animal and get away with it.”**

## Timeline: How Has The Link Been Studied?

1970s:

The  
“Macdonald  
Triad”

(More current  
risk factors:  
parental  
abuse, trauma,  
ACEs).



NATIONAL LINK COALITION  
Working together to stop violence  
against people and animals

## Timeline: How Has The Link Been Studied?

1980s:

Histories of childhood animal abuse found among many serial killers.



David Berkowitz



Albert DeSalvo  
"Boston Strangler"



Ted Bundy



Jeffrey Dahmer



Lee Malvo



## Timeline: How Has The Link Been Studied?

1990s:

School shooters:

43% also torturing animals



Luke Woodham  
Palm, Miss.  
Age 16



Andrew Golden  
Jennett, Ark.  
Age 17



Kip Kinkle



Eric Harris &  
Dylan Klebold

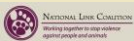


## Timeline: How Has The Link Been Studied?

2000s :

Animal abuse linked with other crimes and antisocial behaviors

- Domestic violence
- Bullying
- Other criminal acts
- Corporal punishment
- Physical and/or sexual abuse
- Elder abuse



## Timeline: How Has The Link Been Studied?

2010s:

"The topic of animal cruelty may seem unimportant in the face of events like the Boston bombing, school shootings, and other recent tragedies, but we know there's a history of animal cruelty in the backgrounds of many perpetrators of violent acts.

"Understanding this link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence is critical to the Department."



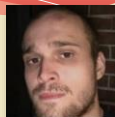
-- Mary Leary, Acting Assistant Attorney General,  
U.S. Dept. of Justice Office of Justice Programs  
in establishing the US DOJ Working Group  
on Animal Cruelty Apr. 30, 2013

## Timeline: How Has The Link Been Studied?

2010s:

*An Extreme – But Real –Example:*  
Animal Abuse Investigation Thwarts Suicide Bomber

- Gregory Lepsky, 20, Point Pleasant, NJ.
- US-born, family emigrated from Chechnya, thought his father had lost the faith.
- Family members called police Feb. 2017 after he stabbed "dirty" family dog.
- Police found pressure-cooker bomb, ISIS materials, incriminating e-mails, and plot to wreak havoc in NYC.
- Told authorities he regretted trying to kill the dog because police would not have found him otherwise.



## What Happened Next?



July 2018: Three federal counter-terrorism agencies identify animal abuse as a possible warning behavior for terrorism

Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team

Dept. of  
Homeland  
Security  
(DHS)

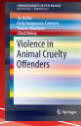
National  
Counter-  
Terrorism  
Center (NCTC)

Federal  
Bureau of  
Investigation  
(FBI)



## What Happened Next?

### Who Are Animal Abusers? (Predatory & Affective)

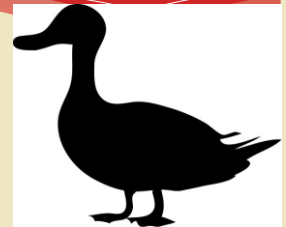


- One-half had histories of substance abuse.
- 89%: prior arrests for multiple sex, property, weapons, interpersonal violence, and animal cruelty crimes; 55% had criminal arrests following the cruelty offense.
- 72% of affective and 49% of predatory offenders engaged in intimate partner violence prior, concurrent to, or following the animal cruelty offense.
- **MORE SUPPORT FOR GENERAL DEVIANCE THAN GRADUATION HYPOTHESIS**

## The Link Helps Resolve Ongoing Challenges

### Challenge #1: What is an animal? (and why is it important?)

"If it walks like a duck,  
and quacks like a duck,  
and looks like a duck, is it a..."



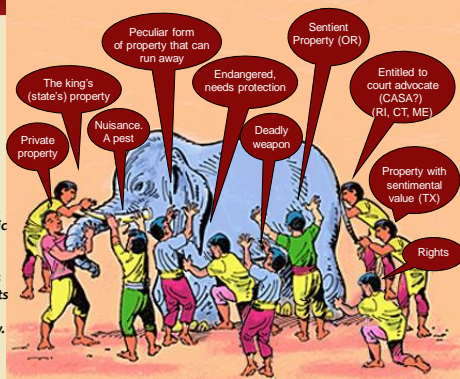
Pet?

Wildlife??

Agricultural food product???

## What is an Animal?

In the absence of consensus or animals' having standing, most pragmatic course is to re-emphasize animal abuse's adverse impacts on human health & safety.



## The Link Helps Resolve Ongoing Challenges

### Challenge #2: Lack of public consensus

"Pet policy is a unique field of political struggle, a conflict that originates from differing perspectives about whether pets are property or autonomous beings, and clashing norms about the care of animals. The result of the political struggle is difficulty in the enactment of policies and especially in the implementation and enforcement of laws that might improve the welfare of companion animals."

— Susan Hunter & Richard Brisbin, Jr. (2016): *Pet Politics*. Purdue University Press.



## The Link Helps Resolve Ongoing Challenges

### Challenge #3: Marginalization of animal care & control

"The philosophy in the animal welfare community is switching to addressing human problems that underlie crises with animals. Animal shelters' service philosophy is evolving to recognize that treating symptoms of animal welfare problems, such as animal homelessness, abuse and neglect, is only a stopgap solution: to be truly effective, underlying causes such as community and family dysfunction and violence must be addressed."

— PetLynx (2011). 2010 national urban animal report. Edmonton, AB, Canada: Author: Ipsos-Reid.

## The Link Helps Resolve Ongoing Challenges

### Challenge #3: Marginalization of animal care & control

- \* The Link empowers Animal Care and Control as violence prevention agencies that protect the health and safety of the community and all vulnerable members of families by focusing on human-animal issues.

## The Link Helps Resolve Ongoing Challenges

### Challenge #4: Lack of court support

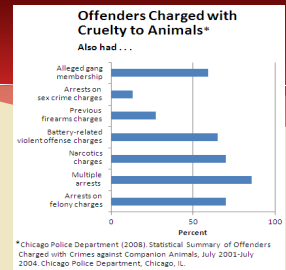


"Given an animal's legal status as property, and the perception of animals as such, animal abuse has traditionally been dealt with in a less than aggressive manner by law enforcement officers, prosecutors and the courts. However, given the growing acceptance of animals as part of the family unit and recent statistical data, animal abuse is now being looked at in a new light as a precursor to human violence."

*Kentucky Children's Rights Journal 8(2), Winter 2000*

## The Link Repositions Animal Abuse As a Crime of Violence

### Animal Abuse Links to Other Crimes



Chicago PD 2008 study  
– 332 animal cruelty offenders

**As many as 31% of Chicago teens have attended a dog fight**

## The Link Repositions Animal Abuse As a Crime of Violence

### Animal Abuse Links to Other Crimes

- A history of animal abuse was a better predictor of sexual assault than were prior convictions for homicide, arson or firearms offenses.
- 99% of animal cruelty offenders had committed other crimes, averaging 4 different offenses.
- Offender profiling for homicide, sexual assault, arson, stalking, and child abuse cases would benefit: law enforcement would have knowledge of animal cruelty cases.

(Clarke, J. P.(2002). *New South Wales police animal cruelty research project*. Sydney, Australia: New South Wales Police Service.)

## Summary



1. Animal abuse also hurts people.
2. Animal abuse is family violence.
3. Recognizing and responding to animal maltreatment enforces the law and helps families.



Let's take a break...



## PART 2

### Legal and psychological considerations of animal abuse



## § 13-2910 . Cruelty to animals

### Intentionally or knowingly:

- Subjects any animal to cruel mistreatment;
- Subjects a domestic animal to cruel mistreatment;
- Interferes with, kills or harms a working or service animal without either legal privilege or consent of the owner;
- Obtains or exerts unauthorized control over a service animal with the intent to deprive the service animal handler of the service animal.
- Kills a domestic animal without either legal privilege or consent of the domestic animal's owner or handler;
- Harasses a law enforcement working animal.

### Recklessly:

- Subjects any animal to cruel mistreatment;
- Interferes with, kills or harms a working or service animal;
- Allows any dog to interfere with, kill or cause physical injury to a service animal.

## § 13-2910 . Cruelty to animals

### \* DEFENSES:

Poisoning dogs or predators attacking livestock or poultry

### \* EXCEPTIONS

Taking of wildlife

## Dog- and Cock-fighting

- \* Owning, keeping, possessing, training, causing, allow on premises if reason to believe fight will occur
- \* **Dogfighting:**
  - \* Class 5 felony
  - \* Attendance: Class 6 felony
- \* **Cockfighting:**
  - \* Class 5 felony
  - \* Attendance: Class 1 misdemeanor
- \* **DEFENSES & EXCEPTIONS:** falconry, rodeo, hunting dogs, ranching

## § 13-1411 . Bestiality

- \* Oral sexual contact, sexual contact or sexual intercourse with an animal.
- \* Causing another person to do so.
- \* Class 6 felony (Class 3 felony if other person a minor under 15)
- \* Psychological assessment and counseling
- \* **EXCEPTIONS:** Recognized veterinary, animal husbandry and insemination practices

## How do you define animal abuse or cruelty?

What is **socially** acceptable?



## FBI Typology of Animal Abuse

NOTE: Each type has varying underlying motives and psychopathologies

### ■ Neglect: Gains no satisfaction

- Simple neglect: inadequate Food/Water/Shelter:
  - Educate or threaten
- Abandonment
  - Common, difficult to prosecute
  - Foreclosure, bankruptcy, students
- Gross, willful, intentional, malicious neglect: commission, deliberate;
  - Prosecute

## FBI Typology of Animal Abuse

### ■ Gross Neglect: Animal Hoarding: Satisfaction from caregiving

- Substantial challenges:
  - # of animals
  - \$ of housing, prosecuting
  - Each animal is evidence; forensics
  - Mental health issues
  - 100% recidivism
  - Prosecution may not be the answer

## FBI Typology of Animal Abuse

### ■ Physical Abuse: N.A.I.

- Blunt-force trauma
- Sharp-force trauma
- Burning, poisoning, strangulation, drowning
- GSW, arrows, darts, etc. etc.

## FBI Typology of Animal Abuse

### ■ Organized Abuse: Animal Fighting

- Dogfighting
- Cockfighting
- \* Often singled out by statute; felony
- \* Attendance, equipment, interstate transport, bringing a minor

## FBI Typology of Animal Abuse

### \* Animal Sexual Abuse

- \* "Crush videos".
- \* Linked to child pornography, child sex abuse
- \* Bestiality, "Crime against nature"
- \* Considered "zoophilia" by advocates
- \* Prosecute

## Other Types of Animal Abuse

NOTE: Each type has varying underlying motives and psychopathologies

### \* Ritualistic abuse: Occult/religious rituals

- \* Supreme Court: specific municipal law too narrow, but cities may enforce more broad prohibitions

### Why are adults cruel to animals?

As many reasons as for interpersonal violence:



Ignorance and inability to empathize  
Sense of entitlement  
(believe animals not worthy of moral consideration)

Perpetrators are socialized to abuse  
Belief that abuse is justified and beneficial  
(violence is a matter of power and control)  
Religious and regional subcultures

Lack of adequate coping skills  
More sensitive to stress and strain caused by pet's behavior; release of frustration and anger)  
Personality dysfunction, poor impulse control...



### Why are adults cruel to animals?

*As many reasons as for interpersonal violence:*

Threaten, intimidate or control a person  
 Domestic violence/child sexual abuse  
 Neighborhood retaliations  
 Shock people for amusement

To control the animal

Retaliation  
 Behavior problems  
 Prejudice against breed or species

Psychopathology

Sadism  
 Enhance their own sense of aggression  
 Sexual gratification



### Why Are Children Cruel?

*All of the above, plus...*

INCREASING CAUSE FOR CONCERN

- Curiosity, exploration
- Peer pressure
- Boredom, depression
- Fear of animal
- Coercion by a more powerful person
- To protect the animal from worse abuse
- Re-enacting own experience of being abused
- Regain sense of power after abuse
- Imitating adult actions
- Rehearsal for interpersonal violence



Nikolas Cruz

Let's take a break...



## PART 3

### Specific Types of Links

### Types of Animal/Human Violence Links



1. **Domestic Violence:** Power & control. "You're next!" No escape (18% - 48%). Emotional extortion.
2. **Child Sexual Abuse:** Emotional extortion. Child chooses between victimization or pet's death.
3. **Adverse Childhood Experience:** Perpetrating or witnessing. Manifests at age 6-1/2.
4. **Bullying:** By bullies and by the bullied.
5. **Animal Hoarding:** Often Linked with elder abuse, seniors' issues.
6. **Animal Fighting:** Linked with other crimes (homicide, trafficking, narcotics, weapons, racketeering, etc.)
7. **Animal Sexual Abuse:** Often Linked with child pornography and other sex crimes.

### History of The Link: Child Maltreatment and Animal Abuse

Long, intertwined history:

- First child abuse prosecutions by humane societies.



Henry Bergh, Founder American SPCA (1866)



The "Little Mary Ellen" Case (1874)

- Many humane societies protected animals AND children until CAPTA in 1971 established national/state CPS.



NATIONAL LINK COALITION  
 Working together to stop violence against people and animals

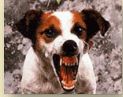
### History of The Link: Child Maltreatment and Animal Abuse

- 60% of NJ families in DYFS  
also had abused or neglected pets

- Animal abuse in 88%  
with physical child abuse

- Bite rate 11x greater

- Use of veterinary services similar  
to general population



(DeVine, Dickert & Lockwood)



### History of The Link: Child Maltreatment and Animal Abuse Time for a New Paradigm: Animal Abuse and Dangerous Animals as "Adverse Childhood Experiences"

- Toxic stress in early childhood:
  - Harms developing brain architecture.
  - Long-term hyper-responsiveness to perceived threats.
  - Lifelong negative physical/mental health.



Barbara W. Boat, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Prof., Univ. of Cincinnati Academic Health Center  
Ex. Dir. Childhood Trust, Cincinnati Children's Hospital



### History of The Link: Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse



"I've loved this dog longer than any  
relationship I've ever had..."

- "Nicole," in La Crosse, WI  
shelter seeking Safe Haven

"Emotional extortion":

- Manipulate
- Intimidate
- Retaliate
- Hold families hostage: 18-48% **DON'T LEAVE**



### History of The Link: Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

**71%** of pet-owning women  
in shelter reported their  
husband or boyfriend killed,  
harm or threatened an animal;  
**32%** reported their children had  
hurt or killed animals

(Ascione, 1998)

**41%** of IPV offenders had committed animal abuse

Febres et al., 2014



### History of The Link: Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

**4 greatest risk factors of becoming a batterer:**

- Mental health issues
- Substance abuse
- Low education level
- **History of actual or threatened animal abuse**

**Batterers who also abuse pets are more dangerous than batterers who do not abuse pets. They use more controlling behaviors, and more forms of violence.**



### The LINK and Domestic Violence Animal Abuse and the Duluth Model

**Isolation:** Refusing to allow you to take your pet to your vet. Prohibiting you from socializing your dog with other dogs.

**Emotional abuse:** Disappearing, giving away or killing pet to take away your source of comfort and unconditional love. Forced participation in sexual abuse.

**Coercion and Threats:** Threatening to harm or kill your pet if you leave or assert any independence.

**Legal Abuse:** Trying to take possession of a pet for which you have been the primary caretaker. Filing charges of theft if you leave with the pet. Custody battles.

**Minimizing, Denying & Blaming:** Blaming you or your pet for the cruelty.



**Economic Abuse:** Refusing to allow you to spend money on pet food and/or vet care (then blaming you).

**Intimidation:** Harming or killing pet. "Next time it'll be you..." Targeting pets of family/friends who aid her escape.

**Using Children:** Harming or killing the children's pet to intimidate them. Blaming the "disappearance" of the family pet on you to create a wedge between you and the children.

## Animal Abuse – The “Wake-Up Call”

- \* Many victims blame themselves for the abuse and are isolated from others who can provide a reality check.
- \* Animal cruelty is a wake-up call that the fault lies not within themselves, but in the personality of the abuser.



## What Does The LINK Look Like in Real Life?



### Tanya's Story

## The Animal Abuse/ Elder Abuse Link

### Animal Welfare Issues for Adult Protective Services



- Memory loss
- Fixed/low income
- Physical frailness
- Social isolation
- ***Hoarding***



## History of The Link: Elder Abuse and Animal Abuse Issues for Adult Protective Services

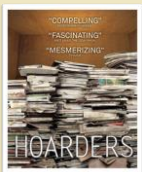


1. Neglect of pet
2. Self-neglect to care for pet
3. Attachment and pet loss
4. Safety of caseworker, home health aide, homemaker services, or patient
5. Animal abuse as coercion/control
6. Jealousy over service animal
7. Hoarding/collecting animals...



## Special Topic in Elder Abuse and Animal Abuse: Animal Hoarding

– not taken seriously



“Hoarders” (2007 –)

Not a harmless eccentricity, but a potentially serious problem that takes a toll on animals, individuals and the community.



“Crazy Cat Lady  
Board Game”  
(2007)

“Crazy Cat Lady  
Action Figure”  
(2004)

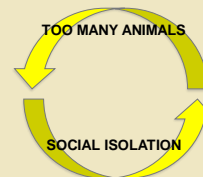


## Why do people hoard animals?

“Some people who have difficulty establishing supportive interpersonal relationships or who otherwise have difficulty coping with life stressors find refuge in animals.”



Gary Patronek, DVM  
Hoarding of Animals  
Research Consortium



- Isolation both a cause AND effect of collecting animals.

## Who Are Animal Hoarders?

**M**ental Illness

**O**verwhelmed hoarder

**R**escue Hoarder/Breeder-Hoarder

**E**xploiter Hoarders



## Who Are Animal Hoarders?

### 1. Mental Illness

Current thinking: not OCD but disordered attachment style emanating from early childhood trauma & life stressors.



#### Psychological Disorders Identified

- Addiction Model
- Schizophrenia
- Antisocial Personality
- Agoraphobia
- Psychopathic Personality
- Dementia
- Borderline Personality
- Depression
- Münchausen by Proxy

## Who Are Animal Hoarders?

### 2. Overwhelmed: Good intentions gone bad

- Sincere desire but overwhelmed
- (Word gets out as THE place to take unwanted animals)
- Animals become family



## Who Are Animal Hoarders?

### 3. Rescuers

- Deep mistrust of others: are only one who can help
- State of denial
- Anti-euthanasia
- Identity tied to animals
- May rescue specific breeds (or colors)
- May rescue hospice cases, dying animals



## Who Are Animal Hoarders?

### 4. Exploiters: Greed or criminal intent

- Solicit \$\$\$ from public
- Get animals to serve themselves
- Actively pick up animals, evade law



## Prosecution Issues in Animal Hoarding

- \* Advantages of prosecution
  - Opportunity for evaluation and risk assessment
  - Opportunity to evaluate animals
  - Can do long-term monitoring (recommended!)
  - Court-ordered restitution of costs
  - Limits on animal ownership
  - Limits on animal-related employment
  - Law-enforcement public record
  - Makes them accountable
  - Educates public about seriousness of the issue

## Prosecution Issues in Animal Hoarding

### Disadvantages of prosecution

- Criminalizes behavior that may be mental illness
- Alienates public or judiciary unfamiliar with the extent of the problem
- May not draw upon the community resources in the best position to provide long-term monitoring and solutions (e.g. mental health, adult protective services, animal care and control)
- Costly and time-consuming

## Intervention Strategies

Type of Hoarder	Persuasion	Threat of Legal Action	Prosecution
Exploiter	Unlikely to be effective	Unlikely to be intimidated	Usually essential
Rescue Hoarder	Unlikely to be effective, at least initially	Must offer potential for scaled-down operation	May be Required when threats fail
Overwhelmed Caregiver	Likely to be receptive	May be enough to reduce recidivism	Often unnecessary or counter-productive

-- Randy Lockwood, ASPCA

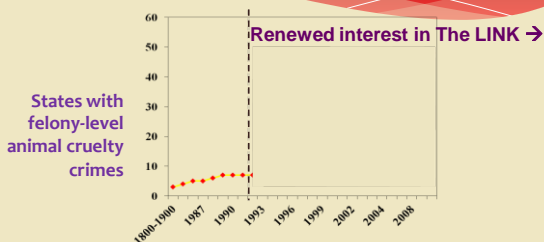
## Remedies & Responses

- Foster housing, vet care, euthanasia of large #s of animals, mobile clinic for spay/neuter
- May require court order
- Psych counseling, social services
- Prepare for media interest
- Allow to keep limited #
- Frequent check-backs



## PART 4 Professional and Community Responses

### What's the Criminal Justice System Doing With This New Awareness?



Feb. 2014: Federal felony to bring a child to an animal fight

### What's the Criminal Justice System Doing With This New Awareness?

Specialized Law Enforcement/ Prosecution Animal Crimes Units





## What's the Criminal Justice System Doing With This New Awareness?

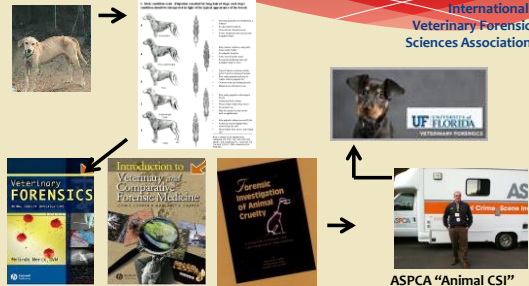
- 145+ law schools offer Animal Law
- 190+ student ALDF chapters
- Animal law committees at ABA, 26 states, 16 regional & 2 international bar associations
- APA addressing strongly

## What's the Criminal Justice System Doing With This New Awareness?

### Veterinary Forensics



International  
Veterinary Forensic  
Sciences Association



## What's the Criminal Justice System Doing With This New Awareness?

*The power of one woman to make a difference...*



John & Nicole Thompson



January 2016: FBI added 4 categories of animal cruelty, abuse and neglect to NIBRS UCR system for 18,000 law enforcement agencies

- Simple or gross neglect (animal hoarding)
- Physical abuse
- Organized abuse (animal fighting)
- Animal sexual abuse



## What's the Criminal Justice System Doing With This New Awareness?

### Increased public and professional awareness



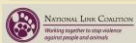
Baltimore, MD

## What's the Criminal Justice System Doing With This New Awareness?

### Increased awareness



- Milwaukee "spotabuse.org" campaign to reduce domestic violence; public reports suspected animal abuse to 911.



## Policy and Practice Responses

### Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

*A serious, understudied rural issue...*



"It wasn't just the cats and dogs, it was the sheep and the chickens. I was terrified for their welfare. I knew if I were to leave, he wouldn't hesitate to kill them. He had done it before."

-- Susan Walsh, 2006

## Policy and Practice Responses

### "Pet Protection Orders" – 35 states & DC & PR



Pet protection orders  
2006-2020 (35 states)

Pet And Women Safety  
(PAWS) Act (2018)

- PPOs across state lines
- \$2,000,000 for pet-friendly shelters

## Policy and Practice Responses

### "Doggie Witness Protection Programs"

#### "Safe Havens"

600+ women's  
shelters:  
Foster referrals



#### "SAF-T" – Sheltering Animals & Families Together

250+ in US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands  
(9 in Arizona)

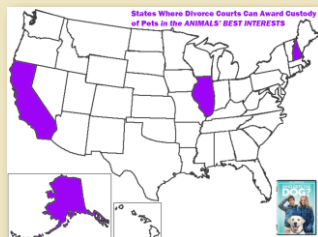
[www.safprogram.org](http://www.safprogram.org)



Grants for shelters and individuals

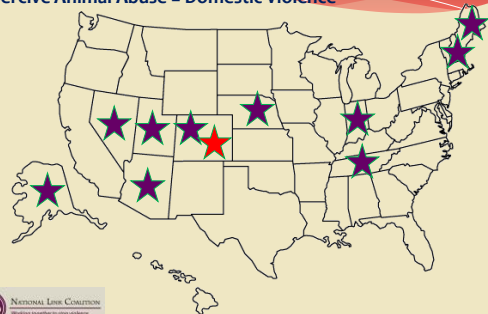
## Policy and Practice Responses

**Courts may determine animal custody  
in divorce cases  
in animals' best interests**



## Legislative Responses to This New Awareness

**Coercive Animal Abuse = Domestic Violence**



## Legislative Responses to This New Awareness

**Sex with animals  
illegal in 46 states**

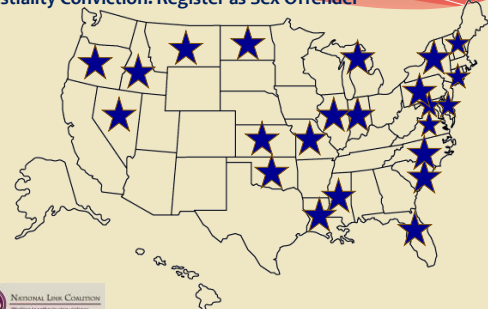
- 31% of animal sex offenders also sexually offended children & adults
- 53% had prior or subsequent records
- 11% had priors for child pornography
- 16% had priors for interpersonal or domestic violence
- 7% diagnosed with voyeurism, necrophilia, sadomasochism, or pedophilia
- 5% of cases: animal pornography used to groom child
- Only 39% of cases were prosecuted

(Edwards, 2019)



## Legislative Responses to This New Awareness

**Bestiality Conviction: Register as Sex Offender**





## Veterinary Responses



2015: New Zealand Veterinary Association signs on to national domestic violence prevention initiative as a “three-dimensional profession” – the only profession with a voice that transcends animal life, human life and the environment.

## Veterinary Responses



## Programmatic Responses to This New Awareness

**Animal-Assisted Interventions for Juvenile Offenders and At-Risk Youth**



## Programmatic Responses to This New Awareness

**Therapy dogs to help abused/ sexually assaulted children testify...**



- \* Forensic interview: CACs, prosecutors
- \* Build trust and communication with interviewers
- \* Reduce stress
- \* Help children prepare for court
- \* Testifying in court, hearings, depositions, sentencing



Ellie and Jeeter  
Resident therapy dogs  
King County (WA)  
Prosecuting Atty.'s Office  
Special Assault Unit

## Resources

**Sign up for our free LINK-LETTER!**



**NATIONAL LINK COALITION**

*Working together to stop violence  
against people and animals*

[www.NationalLinkCoalition.org](http://www.NationalLinkCoalition.org)  
[arkowpets@snip.net](mailto:arkowpets@snip.net)

## Resources



Association of  
Prosecuting Attorneys

## Association of Prosecuting Attorneys

- Animal Welfare Listserve
- Lex Canis – Animal cruelty and fighting newsletter
- National animal cruelty prosecution conferences
- Manuals
- Webinars
- Summary of state anti-cruelty laws
- Technical assistance

## Resources

### THE LATHAM FOUNDATION

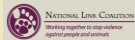
[www.latham.org](http://www.latham.org)







## Resources

- \* Animal Legal Defense Fund ([www.aldf.org](http://www.aldf.org))
- \* Location of Expert Witnesses, Brief Banks, Legal Research, Cruelty Case Database
- \* MSU Animal Legal & Historical Center [www.animallaw.info](http://www.animallaw.info)

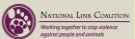



## In Conclusion...

"The effective prosecution of animal abuse has many benefits. It can provide an early and timely response to those who are, or who are at risk of becoming, a threat to the safety of others. It can provide an added tool for the protection of victims of family violence. It can provide an opportunity for prosecutors to develop new, strong and helpful allies in the protection of their communities. Finally, it can bring personal satisfaction in developing new skills and new understanding and in helping build a truly compassionate society."



-Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.,  
American Prosecutors Research Institute



Go forth... Do good deeds... Live like a dog...



Bark less.  
Wag your tail more.  
Let people pet you.  
Take more time to relax.  
Take more time to play.  
Don't poop on other people's lawns.

Any Questions?



Phil Arkow

[www.NationalLinkCoalition.org](http://www.NationalLinkCoalition.org)  
[arkowpets@snip.net](mailto:arkowpets@snip.net)



## Food! Glorious Food!




Phil Arkow

[www.NationalLinkCoalition.org](http://www.NationalLinkCoalition.org)  
[arkowpets@snip.net](mailto:arkowpets@snip.net)

